REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 17 has been amended. Claims 1-18 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-18 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER DEVINS (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,762,761)

The rejections of claims 1-18 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

In Devins, captured programs are generated and stored in a memory. A graphics processor fetches instructions in a captured program and sends them to a graphics accelerator, which executes the instructions to perform graphics operations. A captured program may include instructions causing the graphics process to monitor the status information in a status register, and delay sending the instructions to the graphics accelerator until specified status information is present. (See column 2, lines 32-52).

Therefore, Devins corresponds to the system described in the "Background Art" section of the present application, in which a program for recognizing an operation status of the system is prepared for each job within a program that executes the job based on a flag showing the operation status of the system. (Page 2, lines 23-27 of the present application).

On the other hand, the present invention is characterized by controlling the operation of the operating system in accordance with a result of the recognition, thereby automatically starting a job, *determined based on the recognized predetermined operation status*, that can be executed in the operation status of the system after the operation status has been recognized.

On page 3 of the action, the Examiner states that Devins discloses these features, citing column 3, line 58 to column 4, line 7. However, the cited portion of Devins discloses a device driver 15 including a capture routine 50 and I/O directives causing the DLP 25 to monitor the status of register 100 in the accelerator 30. The device driver 15 merely delays execution of *predetermined* instructions until the status register contains specified status information.

Column 6, lines 42-53, of Devins provides an illustrative example in which a program executes by continuously polling for a triggering event in a hardware status register. When the polling shows that the triggering event has occurred, then the programmed operations are

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executed. In other words, the programmed operations are predetermined and merely wait for a triggering event before executing; but there is no discussion of automatically starting a job, *determined based on the recognized predetermined operation status*, as disclosed by the present invention. (See also column 8, lines 5-11, of Devins).

Independent claims 1, 16 and 17 currently recite "automatically starting a job, determined based on the recognized operation status". Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 16 and 17 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Dependent claims 2-15 and 18 inherit the patentability of their respective base claims and, thus, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2-15 and 18 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.
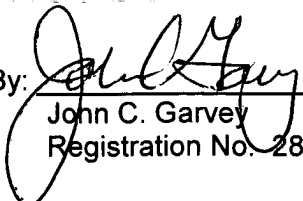
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: ____1-30-06____   By: _____
                               John C. Garvey
                               Registration No. 28,607

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501